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tion Callous to Every feeling of humanity and Criminally Regardless of the happiness and welfare of unborn millions, therefore, Resolved unanimously, that a firm and Inviolable union of the Colonies is absolutely necessary for the defence and support of our Civil Rights with out which all our Efforts Will be likely to prove abortive. that to facilitate such a union it is our Earnest desire that the Committees of the Several Governments meet in a General Convention at such place as shall be thought most Convenient as soon as the circumstance of distance and a Communication of Intelligence will possibly permit'' (p. 445).

CHARLES M. ANDREWS.

Social New York Under the Georges, 1714-1776. By ESTHER SINGLETON. (New York : D. Appleton and Co. 1902. Pp. xix, 407.)

A happy, self-satisfied small town, where fashion was much considered, where the round of life rolled on comfortably and pleasantly, distances being short and social entertainment frequent, where there were nearly as good markets as in Philadelphia, almost as much education as in Boston, London modes a trifle late, and where wealth had nearly as great weight in fixing a standard as in Greater New York—such is the picture outlined in Miss Singleton's careful mosaic, put together with bits from ephemeral records. There is nothing haphazard in the author's selections. The morsels are chosen with judgment and discrimination, and so dovetailed that a fairly graphic whole is obtained. The work is painstaking and conscientious. Wills, inventories, private letters, and, above all, the advertising columns of newspapers have been called into requisition to furnish data as to manners, customs, and the methods of supplying their necessities. This kind of information gains value from its unconsciousness. It gives at least one phase of the truth as travelers give another. In connection with the latter, discrimination must be used to distinguish between real observations and those borrowed from an earlier commentator. As Owen Feltham's *Dutchman Epitomized* in the middle of the seventeenth century furnished a mine of epithets for many later tourists to Holland, note-book in hand, so here too, convenient and apt characterizations are sometimes found in use by the next comer. For instance, Kalm's description of New York in 1748 is evidently so much to the taste of some unnamed person who "spent a month in their metropolis, the most splendid town in North America," that he does not trouble to find new phrases. He is quoted as an "enthusiastic author" (p. 5).

The chapters on "Houses and Furniture" are enriched by illustrations showing many objects with pedigrees still treasured in various families. In this section it is to be noted how markedly the impress is English. The Dutch element had, apparently, almost disappeared.

In Part V., family portraits are most suggestive in the discussion of women's dress, and the advertisements, too, are brought into play and used with a good deal of skill. Evidently London fashions were in vogue here about four months after their first appearance in England.

Instructive too are certain theatrical notices. "June 13, 1751. Mrs. Davis hopes as the play is granted to enable her to buy off her time that ladies and gentlemen . . . will favour her benefit"; June 10. Mr. Jago "hopes that all . . . will favour him as he has never had a benefit before and is just out of prison" (p. 274). Pity for redemptioners and ex-convicts was then demanded as a halo to enhance dramatic efforts!

A letter from Elisha Parker to his sister in 1743, accompanying the last two volumes of *Pamela*, shows that New York shared fashions of literature as well as of garments with London. "I think 'em by far the most proper books of any I ever saw for the youth of both, but especially of your sex . . . I have too good an opinion of you to think that the assistance of books is wanted. However the more virtuously inclined the mind of any person is, the more will it delight in hearing of virtue praised and this with the advantage that it will be got by reading a stile so beautiful and natural as the stile of *Pamela*."

From the composite nature of its being, *Social New York* lacks in literary finish, but it has real value as a study of conditions. Its sturdy quality is especially grateful because there has been a plentiful crop of popular works about New York, which have handed on from one to another a long series of half-true commonplaces and inaccuracies anent New Amsterdam and her successor, from unsifted and unweighed authorities. Better work in the field is refreshing. Moreover there is a pleasant definiteness about Miss Singleton's framework. Her picture is confined to the Georgian epoch, her figures are the well-to-do, her topic is their life, and of all her treatment is effective and suggestive.

RUTH PUTNAM.

Ecclesiastical Records of the State of New York. Published by the state under the supervision of HUGH HASTINGS, state historian. (Albany: James B. Lyon. 1901. Two vols., pp. xxxv, 744; xxviii, 745-1442.)

ALTHOUGH published under the supervision of the state historian of New York, the actual work of compiling and arranging this collection has been in the hands of the Reverend Edwin Corwin, D.D. The original occasion for the undertaking seems to have been the discovery of material relating to the Dutch Reformed Church in New York which escaped the researches of John Romeyn Brodhead, to whom students of the history not only of New York but of the American colonies in general are so deeply indebted. Owing to the efforts of Brodhead seven volumes of the correspondence of the classis of Amsterdam were examined and transcribed, and seven bundles of letters from the American churches were first loaned and afterwards presented to the general synod of the Dutch Reformed Church in America. At the time it was thought that these bundles included all the extant letters from America; but Dr. Corwin has found others in the archives of the classis of Amsterdam, among them two portfolios from New York. Furthermore, he has searched the minutes of the classis of Amsterdam, of the deputies of the